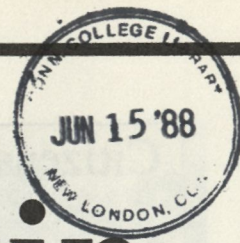


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# Citizens' Bulletin

Volume 15 Number 8

April

1988

\$5/yr.

The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

## 75TH ANNIVERSARY CONNECTICUT STATE PARKS PROGRAM





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Cover by Michael D. Klein

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## Editor's Note

In January, the DEP hosted a conference on *Environment/2000: Connecticut's Environmental Plan*. Initially presented in May, 1986, *E/2000* has been accepted and taken to heart by the environmentally concerned citizens of the state. The plan has been expanded, redefined, and focused. Its goals and strategies have been incorporated into the agendas of many groups throughout the state. There is clear movement toward a balanced, harmonious integration of all elements which affect the health, safety, and beauty of the this state.

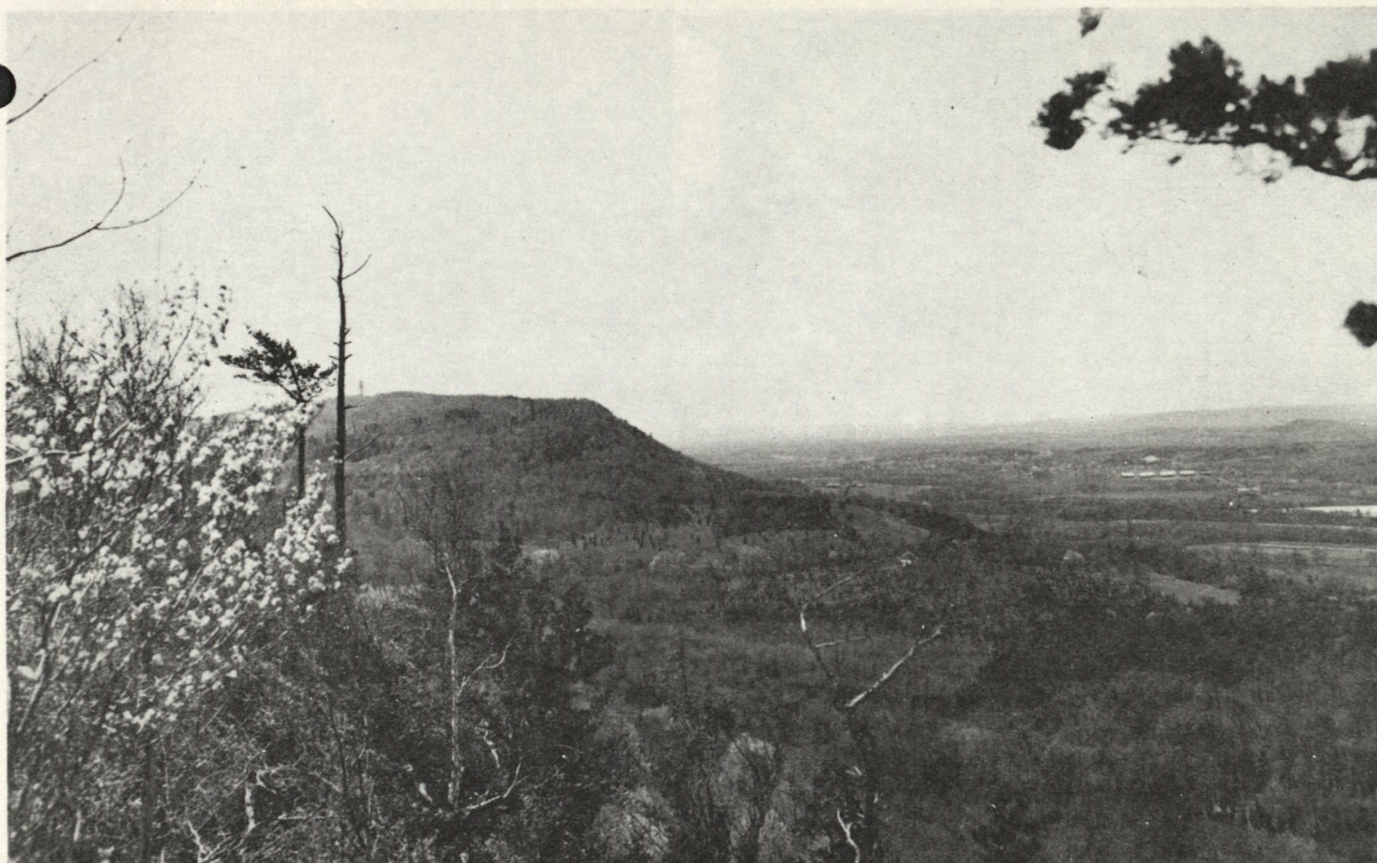
The conference was exciting, vastly informative, and inspiring. Dedicated and knowledgeable people spoke with enthusiasm and optimism. But, at even the best of conferences — as this was — when all issues are critical, sometimes it is hard to keep concentration at a peak. There are times, forgive us all, when the mind wanders.

The keynote speaker at the conference was Douglas Costle. Mr. Costle is dean of Vermont Law School, and was at one time the commissioner of Environmental Protection in Connecticut. When Mr. Costle was introduced, my own mind was drifting, drifting, to a land of palm trees, ocean waves, and gentle music. Suddenly, however, I was snapped into full awareness. Wake-up time. I was in the presence of a man of clarity, experience, and perspective. One supreme example: "What does a reasonable man do," asked Mr. Costle, "when faced with uncertainty?" He paused, and then answered his own question. "He proceeds with prudence." Clear. Simple. Correct. The good stuff. What *Environment/2000* is all about.

Hope you enjoy this issue of the *Bulletin*.

R. P.





*A view of Talcott Mountain, Heublein Tower, and the Farmington River Valley as seen from Penwood State Park. (DEP file photos.)*

## Happy 75th Anniversary to Connecticut's Parks

by

**Joseph Hickey**

State Park Planner

Office of Parks and Recreation

**N**OTHING SPRINGS FULL-BLOWN into existence and the same is true of Connecticut's State Parks System. Its roots lie deep in the concern of enlightened citizens of the late 19th century, who saw the often rapacious impact of a frontier mentality upon the landbase of the United States and who feared for the future of the land. At the national level, individuals such as John Muir, President Theodore Roosevelt, and Connecticut's own Gifford Pinchot were leading spokesmen.

Similarly, and especially in certain northeastern states where a sense of stewardship of the land was felt by many leading citizens, a comparable reaction developed. As early as 1895, the Connecticut Forestry Association was founded, the predecessor of the present Connecticut Forest and Park Association. One of the objectives of this organization, as stated in its constitution, was "to forward the establishment of state and national parks and reservations."

In 1909, a group of citizens headed by Edward H. Wilkins of Middletown proposed legislation to obtain land along the Connecticut River for state







*Mashapaug Lake at Bigelow hollow State Park was originally a portion of Nipmuck State Forest.*



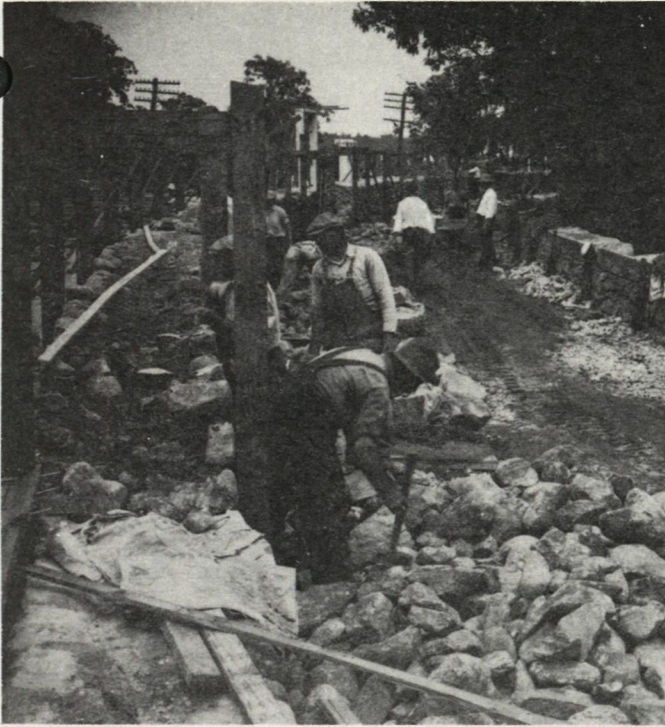
*Early efforts in 1919 resulted the acquisition of the varied natural landscape which is now Devils Hopyard State Park. Seen here is Chapman Falls.*

reservations before it was "too late." The result of their effort was passage of an act creating a temporary State Park Commission with the charge to prepare a plan for acquiring and organizing park lands. Their comprehensive report to the 1913 General Assembly led to the creation of a permanent State Park Commission. Three of the members of the Commission, Lucius F. Robinson, Herman H. Chapman, and Walter O. Filley, were to serve in this capacity for over 30 years each.

The Commission then appointed its first employee, Mr. Albert M. Turner, as field secretary. A true pioneer in the field of parks and recognized nationally as an authority, Turner played a key role in establishing the philosophy and direction of Connecticut's state park system during his tenure from 1914 to 1942. His philosophy, as stated at the 1924 National Conference on State Parks, was that "the chief aim of state parks is to maintain and glorify the works of God rather than the works of man."

From the beginning, gifts of land have played a major role in the establishment of the state park system, beginning with the donation to the state of Mount Tom in 1911. Other early gifts involving both individuals and groups included Black Rock, Sleeping Giant, Dennis Hill, and Haystack Mountain State Parks. Particularly noteworthy were the gifts of Alain C. and May White, which included Macedonia Brook, Kent Falls, and Campbell Falls State Parks, as well as a portion of Mohawk Mountain. Concurrently the Commission also began to acquire significant areas, including Sherwood Island, Hammonasset Beach,





*The Rocky Neck State Park pavilion is shown here under construction in 1934. It was one of the many contributions of the Depression-era public works programs.*

and Rocky Neck State Parks, in order to provide the general public with access to Long Island Sound.

THE COMMISSION soon recognized the need to develop some of the land acquired in order to ensure public support for continued acquisition. Thus Arthur V. Parker was hired in 1919 as the first park superintendent, a post he held for 28 years. His role was to develop and maintain the park system. Due to limited funds, the initial facilities generally were primitive in character, with emphasis given to providing public access. A noteworthy exception to this role was the 1920 construction of a "temporary" pavilion at Hammonasset Beach for \$78,560.00, a structure whose expected life expectancy of five years was extended until the early 1960s. Another unique facility was the Highway Rest Stop at Wharton Brook, which became the nucleus of the later state park.

AS THE COUNTRY SUFFERED through the Depression Years of the 1930s, President Roosevelt established the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) as a means of getting unemployed young men into semi-military work camps in the nation's parks and forests. Here CCC members could do productive work, learn a trade, and most importantly gain pride in themselves and in their contributions to society.

Together with other federal public works programs, the result was a major improvement in Connecticut's pub-



*Connecticut's Revolutionary War history is portrayed at Putnam Memorial State Park in Redding.*

lic lands. Massive tree-planting, forest improvement, and especially facility development efforts were undertaken. Many park roads resulted from this program and recreational developments were carried out at Squantz Pond, Kent Falls, Housatonic Meadows, Haystack Mountain, Chatfield Hollow, and Burr Pond. A W.P.A. project involved the building of the lookout tower at Sleeping Giant State Park. However, the most impressive project of this era was the construction of the Rocky Neck Pavilion by the Public Works Administration, using timbers from every state forest in Connecticut. However, with the approach of World War II, the last of the CCC camps were closed down.

DURING THE WAR, the nation's energies necessarily were concentrated upon obtaining eventual victory and peace. As a result, this period can best be characterized as a holding action, with only limited staff and budgeting available. Nevertheless, some land continued to be purchased at what today seem to be bargain basement prices.

Following World War II, the United States had to embark on a conversion back to a peace-time economy and in catching up on all the social and consumer needs put aside during the war years. Connecticut's parks were no exception. During the late 1940s and the 1950s, modest increases were experienced in staffing and budget, accompanied also by some new land acquisition as well as facil-

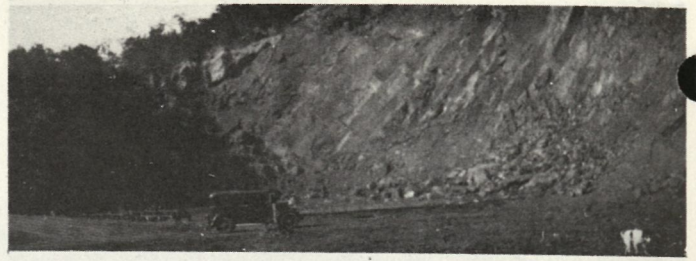




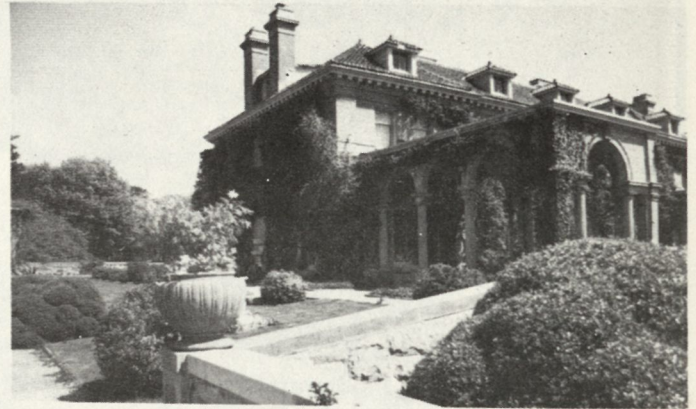
*A 1927 version of camping at Hammonasset Beach State Park.*

ity development. Noteworthy park improvements included shoreline stabilization at Hammonasset Beach in 1955, sand replenishment at Sherwood Island in 1956, and addition of new beachfront facilities at both Hammonasset and Sherwood Island in 1959. In addition many inland parks were acquired or established at this time. Key examples were Bigelow Hollow, Collis P. Huntington, Kettletown, Osbornedale, Harkness Memorial, Fort Griswold, and Putnam Memorial State Parks.

**F**UELED BY A REBIRTH of the conservation concerns of the early 1900s, resulting from the impact of massive land development on the countryside, widespread public concern developed during the 1960s at the federal, state, and local level. Although the former State Park and Forest Commission was now reorganized into a Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, its voice remained a major and respected element in the effort to preserve some of Connecticut's scenic areas and potential parksites before they were consumed by the land development pressures of the period. Notable Commission members during this period included its chairman, George Garratt, dean of the Yale School of Forestry, Malcolm Stannard, and Edward Child. Many significant properties including Dinosaur, the western portion of Bluff Point, Forster Pond, Ross Pond, Seth Low Pierpont, and George Dudley Seymour State Parks were ac-



*A 1920s view of the quarry on the head of the Sleeping Giant. Public reaction to the mining resulted in the creation of the state park.*



*Harkness Memorial State Park in Waterford combines architectural elegance with spectacular natural surroundings.*

quired during this period, some through the George Dudley Seymour Fund.

**D**URING THE 1970s, public concern shifted from land conservation to pollution control issues, a concern expressed in the establishment of the Department of Environmental Protection in 1971. As a result, Connecticut's state parks became integrated into a Division of Conservation and Preservation. A second major factor was the oil crisis and serious economic downturn. Therefore, this again became to a substantial degree a period of trying to maintain the *status quo* in the face of a decrease in field staff and limited budgets. In addition, relatively little new park land was added, with the notable exception of the remainder of Bluff Point State Park and the initial acreage at West Rock Ridge State Park.

**A**N IMPROVED ECONOMY meant that more money became available to repair and upgrade old facilities and to build new facilities. Similarly, some additional field personnel became available to improve the operational capability of the park. One very useful assist in this respect has been a new CCC, the Connecticut Conservation Corps, which replaced the federally-funded Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) and Young Adult Conservation Corps (YACC) of the 1970s. This period also saw the death of Mr. William Miller, long-time director of State Parks and Recreation, who had successfully





*Gillette Castle State Park, purchased in 1943, represents one of the state's major tourism attractions.*

maintained a consistent state park philosophy through the many changes of the previous 20 years.

However, the same healthy economy also spawned a second wave of land development like that of the post-World War II years, a wave which threatened to engulf the entire face of Connecticut. As challenge begets a response, this threat has again mobilized those who are concerned about the future physical character of Connecticut and whether or not future generations will be able to enjoy the scenic and recreational assets we hold dear. Thus, as Connecticut's State Parks Program approaches its 75th Anniversary, we see a rebirth of the concerns which inspired Albert Turner and our colleagues of the 1960s.

Looking to the future, several priorities for action can be predicted. Major additions to West Rock Ridge State Park and the Scantic River State Park, with its unique linear greenbelt, are planned. Also, major emphasis will be placed upon water-based acquisitions, providing needed additional public access to waterbodies with swimming potential and to major rivers. In addition, trail-oriented recreation will become a higher priority for acquisition and development action, including the conversion of former railroad rights-of-way under the "rails to trails" program. Finally, a major heritage state park system based upon the rich social and economic history of Connecticut's communities is proposed. Thus Connecticut's state parks will play an increasingly significant role in maintaining the state's noted quality of life and in fostering its important tourism industry. ■



*In 1966, the excavation of unique footprints in rock led to the designation of Dinosaur State Park. The full-scale model of Dilophosaurus, above, is one exhibit at the park.*





*Shad was the salvation of George Washington's Continental Army. Without shad, the Army would have starved or dispersed. (Painting, "March to Valley Forge, December 16, 1777," by William B.T. Trego, 1883. Courtesy of the Valley Forge Historical Society.)*

## Connecticut's Shad: The Legend Lives on

by

Walter R. Whitworth, Professor of Renewable Natural Resources,  
The University of Connecticut and Carol K. Davidge,  
Public Information Coordinator,  
The Connecticut State Museum of Natural History

**E**VERY YEAR IN LATE APRIL, hundreds of thousands of silvery shad begin their odyssey up the Connecticut River to spawn. Leaping like salmon over falls, they return to their freshwater birthplaces to lay eggs. After spawning, most shad die trying to return to the ocean.

After hatching, the young shad spend several months in the freshwater. Then they migrate to the ocean where they grow to adult size. When they reach sexual maturity, they too will swim upstream to spawn and preserve the species. Male shad return to spawn after two to three years in the ocean, whereas female shad spend three to four years in salt waters. Shad returning to spawn are easily captured at points in the river system, such as below falls or dams.

Since the arrival of the first white settlers in Connecticut, people have been fascinated by the life cycle of this interesting and beautiful fish. Although much has been learned, the story of the shad is still surrounded by legend.

**T**HE SHAD WAS USED AS FOOD by the Indians, fertilizer by early Colonists, a money product in the "triangular trade" between New England, the West Indies, and England, a "poor man's salmon," and the savior of George Washington's troops at Valley Forge. Today in Connecticut, it is an important sport fish. Anglers from all over the country come to Windsor's Annual Shad Derby.





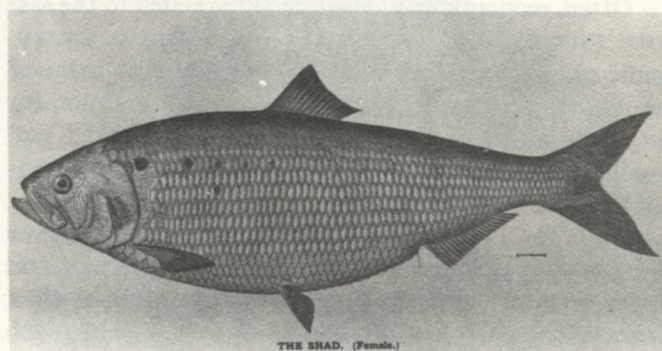
Watercolor drawing by John White (A.D. 1585) shows several methods of Indian fishing: A wier and fish trap made of reeds (upper left), spearing, and netting. At night, Indians made a fire in the dugout canoe to lure fish. From a map of eastern North America. Manuscript in the British Museum.

Folklore abounds about the shad. The arrival of spring was heralded by the annual migration of the shad and blooming in May of the shadbush, a white flowering shrub. Many Puritans believed that both were examples of an all-wise Providence as it uplifted both the spirit and the land.

In the mid-1600s, the shad were so abundant in the Connecticut, Housatonic, Quinnebaug, and Shetucket Rivers that they were caught by spearing. The Indians used many fishing methods, including standing at waterfalls with baskets made of reeds, or lifting them directly out of the water in nets made of tree branches. In 1794, a historian described an Indian weir fishery as follows: "The Indians run a dam of stones across the stream . . . (leaving) an opening . . . in the middle for the water to run off." Then they "drive the fishes with poles and a hideous noise, through the opening." By this "contrivance they sometimes catch a thousand shad and other fish in half a day."

To the Indians, shad was food, but they also revered this fish, giving special names to the shad spawning season, and to good fishing places in Connecticut. In 1632, a traveler wrote: "In the spring, when they gathered at their best fish sites, they have meetings from severall

places, where they exercise themselves in gaminage and playing of juglinge trickes, and all manner of Revelles, which they are delighted in."



The female shad produces shad roe, a delicacy likened to caviar. Historians are divided on the value the Colonists placed on shad as food. Many early settlers in Connecticut considered shad a kind of poor man's salmon, fit only for fertilizer, servants, and hogs. Because shad was so easily obtained, the implication was that anyone who ate shad simply couldn't afford to eat anything else. Engraving from the *Fisheries and Fishing Industries of the United States*, 1887.



The "Revelles" and "juglinge" involved feats of magic and demonstration of such superhuman physical prowess as swimming under the ice. The Indians believed that guardian spirits sometimes took the form of fish and acknowledged their gods when the fish were abundant.

The Colonists were quick to adopt the Indian fishing practices. Fishermen paid fees to fish at shore seine fisheries. Later gill net fisheries developed. Some Nutmeggers celebrated the end of winter with feasting, drinking, and revelry. One of the "legitimate" excuses to indulge was to participate in a shad fishery. There were, however, many types of shad fishermen. Some were farmers who desired fish for fertilizer; others planned to salt shad and sell them for profit to the West Indies for sugar, which was sent to Europe; and a few fished for food. There were, however, intemperate and idle individuals who came only to drink and indulge in "orgies." It was estimated that often hundreds of men and horses would be gathered below the falls. A net stretched across the river below the falls would bring in over a thousand fish, a haul so heavy that horses had to pull it in. A fisherman in a boat moored above the falls could catch two to three thousand fish in a day.

**H**ISTORIANS ARE DIVIDED on the value the Colonists placed on shad as food. Many early settlers in Connecticut considered shad a "poor man's salmon," fit only for fertilizer, servants, and hogs. This attitude was probably influenced by both culture and economics. Most Colonists equated the American and European shad. While the French esteemed the European shad, the English did not. Since most Connecticut Colonists were English, they carried a negative attitude about shad.

Often, economic value is inversely related to the ease with which an item is obtained. Concomitantly, the economic status of the user relates to the economic value of the item. Pork was the preferred meat of the Colonists, but hogs had to be purchased, fed, butchered, and preserved for eating, which required cash investment, facilities, and planning. Shad, on the other hand, were easily obtained. The implication was that the shad eater was poverty stricken and could not afford pork. A story was told of a family about to dine on shad when, hearing a knock at the door, hid the platter of shad under a bed. Apprentices and indentured servants often included in their contracts a phrase that limited the number of meals of shad they could be served per week. Eventually, a "shad eater" took on the connotation of an obnoxious person. As late as 1854, politicians were occasionally called "shad eaters."

Shad literally saved the Continental Army of General George Washington that was encamped at Valley Forge in the winter of 1777-1778. Lack of food and clothing was so severe that Washington wrote to Congress that

unless more money was appropriated, the Army would "starve, dissolve, or disperse." This was not an idle comment. In January, the troops at Valley Forge had only meager provisions. In February, there was a week with no food at all. Although Connecticut had shipped salted shad to the Army, it was living shad that fed the troops. The shad migrated farther up the Delaware River than usual and spawned in late February, earlier than was typical.

The shad didn't just feed the troops. The effort of capturing the shad raised morale, inspiring the cavalry and infantry to work together. Historian Noel F. Busch wrote: "... a hundred of Light-Horse Harry Lee's cavalry rode into the water, formed a line across the river, and waded their horses upstream while beating the surface with brush switches. Companies of soldiers posted at the shallows, then waded in to net the fish by thousands." The techniques employed were similar to those used by the Indian.

"The abnormal shad run of 1778 ended the Army's winter famine. It provided not only all the fish the camp could eat for the two weeks that it lasted, but also a surplus of several hundred barrels which were salted down for the future," wrote Busch.

Shad numbers declined after the late 1700s as dam building increased on Connecticut's rivers. These obstructions prevented the shad from returning to their freshwater birthplaces and reduced the number of young fish that survived their first summer in freshwater. As the shad became scarce, they became a luxury food. While shad in 1736 had sold for a penny each, by 1773 they were selling for two to three cents each, and by the mid-1800s for as much as 50 cents per fish.

**J**OHAN CARDILLO LIVES IN WINDSOR, is 80 years old, is a lifelong fisherman, and is known locally as "Mr. Shad." He believes that people don't like shad because the fish has many bones, and because few know how to prepare it. "Properly boned, it is a very delicate and delicious fish, but it has to be used immediately, or iced the minute it is caught. When properly done, nothing is more delicious," says Cardillo, who prefers his shad smoked. Over 200 years ago, Ebenezer Hunt had similar sentiments, stating that shad were very tasty whether one had pork or not.

Historically, American shad were prepared for the table in many ways. People disagreed on which part of the run (early, middle, or late) was the most delicious eaten fresh. There seemed to be a preference for females. Shad roe was and is highly prized, considered comparable to caviar.

The area in which the fish was caught was also thought to influence the flavor — some preferred fish from the river and others from the tributaries. Some thought that when salted shad was fried, it was as good as any species of fish.





*In 1957, H. Meade Alcorn (left) received the first shad caught in the Windsor Shad Derby. Making the presentation is John Cardillo, founder of the derby.*

Some prepared shad as they would ham. They first rubbed the shad with fine salt and followed this with salt-peter and molasses. This method was considered superior to smoking after rubbing with only fine salt.

Colonial gourmets seem to agree that the best method of preparing shad was "planking." Thomas Jefferson, in Virginia, considered himself a great shad chef and a master at planking. This method involves nailing a fish (usually with the entrails removed) to a clean, previously heated oak plank. The preheated plank preserves the juices of the fish. The planks are then arranged around the fire, with the fish facing inward. The shad are basted with lemon and butter. Using the oak plank as a serving tray, one might experience the ultimate in gourmet eating. The legend is that by the end of the activities, about half of the guests had eaten the shad, while the other half had eaten their planks.

**T**ODAY, THE SHAD DERBY IN WINDSOR, which runs for three weeks annually in April and May, is one of the best known sports fishing events on the east coast.

The Derby began in 1954 at the instigation of "Mr. Shad," John Cardillo, who was at that time chairman of the Fishing Committee of the Windsor Rod and Gun Club. Because Cardillo finds that you get more action on light tackle when the shad are running than with any other fish, he thought a Shad Derby would be fun. He claims that today shad is a "poor man's salmon" because you don't need expensive equipment, but he has met many rich and famous people who come to the Derby to fish anonymously.

This year will be the 34th year of the Shad Derby, which includes a parade and crowning of a shad queen on May 21. Each year in Connecticut, between 20,000 and 50,000 shad are caught during the spawning. The Derby is free to all who have fishing licenses, with weighing from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. weekdays and from noon to 6 p.m. on weekends. The Derby will run from Saturday, April 30, to Sunday, May 22. The Connecticut record American shad, certified by *Field and Stream Magazine*, was caught during the Derby in 1973 by Edward P. Nelson of Prospect. The nine-pound, two-ounce shad was caught in Enfield.

In 1957, a modern shad legend was created when the sponsors of the Derby, the Rod and Gun Club, the Windsor Chamber of Commerce, and Carling Brewery, asked President Dwight Eisenhower to attend the Shad Derby. Unfortunately, Ike declined, choosing instead to go to Rhode Island for his fishing. "But he didn't catch a thing in Rhode Island. If he'd come to our Shad Derby," muses Cardillo, "he would have caught plenty." ■





The DEP presents . . .

# The Birds

Illustration by  
Chris Rowlands

**T**HERE ARE MANY different species of birds that cause damage or may be considered a nuisance. For example, the red-winged blackbird feeds on sweet corn in summer, and the blue jay harasses songbirds at winter feeders. Bird nuisance cases must be handled individually, with differing methods of control. All birds in Connecticut — except starlings, pigeons, and blackbirds — are protected under state and federal laws. A federal wildlife control agent or wildlife biologist from the DEP's Wildlife Bureau should be contacted before attempting to control a nuisance bird population. There are no registered poisonous baits available to homeowners for bird control.

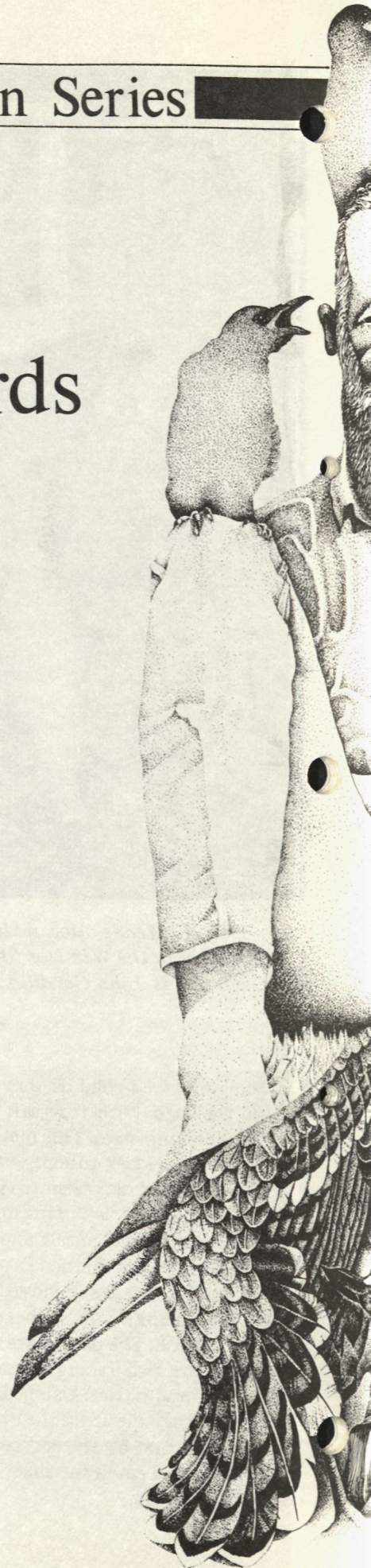
Problems caused by birds, especially in large concentrations, are difficult to solve. Control methods which use repellents are the most successful. Repellents may be mechanical, acoustical, visual, or chemical. A chemical repellent should only be used against the particular species it was designed for, and for the specific purpose it was registered for. *Always read the label carefully and follow the directions.* Consult the DEP's Pesticides Unit for advice on using any chemical repellent.

**B**IRD WATCHING and winter bird feeding have provided observers with hours of enjoyment,

even though some of the birds involved are nuisance species, such as the English sparrow, starling, and rock dove, or pigeon. These European imports have caused considerable problems with our native bird species. English sparrows, however, readily eat Japanese beetles, which are harmful agricultural pests. Also, one should note that woodpeckers, sometimes a problem to homeowners, help to keep a check on insect populations affecting trees in our woodlands.

Starlings, robins, orioles, blackbirds, and blue jays cause damage to fruit-bearing plants from spring to fall. The most effective method of controlling damage to strawberries, cherries, apples, grapes, blueberries, and other fruits is the use of protective netting. There are several types of netting available, such as plastic, impregnated paper, nylon, cotton, and polyethylene. Though the initial investment in netting can be costly, if a net is well taken care of, it will provide protection for many years. When installing a net, the use of supports is advisable to prevent any damage to the plant. The netting should be kept several inches away from the plant, and extend to the ground where it can be anchored by stones or other heavy objects.

Red-winged blackbirds and common grackles do the most damage to corn. These birds will pierce the husk to feed on the kernels. There are cul-







tural methods that, when applied along with frightening devices, are effective means of control. Cultural methods include planting as early as possible and adjusting the harvest so that much of the corn ripens and is picked at the same time. Corn that ripens late is more susceptible to damage because there is less natural food for the birds to feed on in late summer. There are certain varieties of both sweet and field corn that can withstand blackbird attacks better than others. Frightening devices, such as alarm or distress calls, gas exploders, guns, firecrackers, and airplanes, when used properly, are effective means of keeping birds out of a corn field. The use of frightening devices should begin as soon as the birds start feeding on the ripened corn. It is important to prevent the birds from settling down on the corn even for a brief period of time. The use of several different types of devices from various locations is most effective.

**N**ESTING IN BUILDINGS is a common problem caused most often by sparrows, pigeons, starlings, and swallows. Sticky repellents applied to roosting surfaces will deter birds from perching. If birds have access to a building, it is necessary to seal



off all the openings with either hardware cloth or sheet metal, once all birds have left the inside area. Swallows that are not causing any problems may be beneficial because they feed on insects that are bothersome to man.

Buildings and trees are sometimes damaged by woodpeckers when they "drill"; the birds are often searching for insects, but sometimes they are announcing their territory to other woodpeckers. Where buildings are involved, the use of paste repellents and hardware cloth is advised, as well as eliminating the insects the birds are searching for. Netting small trees and wrapping hardware cloth around the trunks of larger ones will keep woodpecker damage to a minimum.

**B**LUE JAYS AND STARLINGS are aggressive birds that harass

songbirds at feeders and birdhouses, especially in winter. The placement of a feeder near shrubbery provides protective cover for the songbirds, but may allow house cats easy access to the feeding birds as prey. Starlings are also known to pull up small plants, but covering these plants with a crate or box will prevent damage from occurring.

Birds of prey, such as hawks and owls, will occasionally kill unprotected poultry. Free-ranging domestic fowl should be penned with overhead protection, especially at night, when some birds of prey, such as owls, hunt for food. *Remember, it is illegal to shoot birds of prey.* ■

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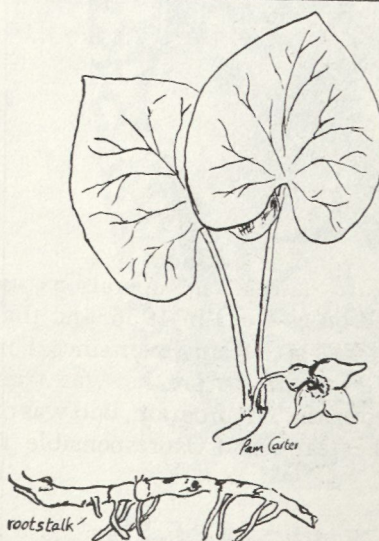
## Trailside Botanizer

by  
**Gale W. Carter**  
Illustration by  
**Pam Carter**

Wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*) is an early spring wildflower. It often goes unnoticed because its blossom is partially submerged in the leaf mould and its color blends with the surroundings.

Wild ginger is a low-growing plant, growing as high as six to 12 inches. There are usually two heart- or kidney-shaped leaves. Each leaf has very conspicuous veins and the leaf stalk is rather long and hairy. The rootstalk, or rhizome, is partially buried and has a distinct ginger-like taste.

April to May is the time to look for this flower. The flower has no petals and consists of a cup-like calyx with three spreading, brown-to-reddish sepals that are united near the base of



the ovary. The fruit is a fleshy capsule with many seeds.

There is disagreement about how the flower is pollinated. Some botanists believe that it may be cross-pollinated by fungus gnats and flesh flies that are attracted to its ill-smelling flower, but others think that it may be self-pollinated.

The generic name *Asarum* is a Greek word meaning "of obscure derivation," while the species name *canadense* indicates that the plant was first noticed growing in Canada. The common name ginger is derived from the Sanskrit word "syngaverem," meaning "horn body," alluding to the shape of the flower.

Wild ginger should not be confused with common ginger (*Zingiber officinale*), a plant of the tropics that has been used in the making of ginger ale, candied ginger, and ginger tea. Wild ginger is often used as a substitute for common ginger to make candied ginger. Wild ginger is also used in seasoning stir-fries.

Over the years, wild ginger has had many medicinal uses, such as remedies for the treatment of fever, whooping cough, colds and stomach disorders, as well as the pains of childbirth.

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## The Professional Approach

by  
Robert Paier

**T**HERE ARE MANY SKILLS and specialized kinds of expertise that are necessary to being a good conservation officer. You have to understand wildlife, forestry, fishing, and the territory itself. You have to be an expert in public relations and psychology. And, because a conservation officer is authorized to enforce the laws of the state, he or she may be called upon to use any of these skills at any time, on an emergency basis, when wrong decisions can be costly in the extreme. It is critical that the conservation officer have a sense of the delicacy of the mission. Bob Aborn has been a conservation officer in Connecticut for 23 years. It is clear that he is just the right person for a tough and demanding job, a person with a touch as soft as a Larry Bird foul shot.

**C**ONSERVATION OFFICERS are, first and foremost, professionals," says Bob. "It's important both to do your best and to maintain a respect for everybody you deal with. We're all human beings, and you never know what you might do if you were in somebody else's shoes."

It is this view of things, the law enforcement officer's understanding of human fallibility, combined with a good old Yankee sense of humor, that has characterized Bob Aborn. In the 23 years he's been on the job, he has learned the territory, and he has made and kept lots of friends. "In fact," says Bob, "I still know and can talk to many of the people I have arrested." That's the professional approach.



*Conservation Officer Robert Aborn*

**B**OB GREW UP on a dairy farm in Ellington, attending one of the last of the old one-room school houses where, during recess, kids had to draw water from the well and split their own wood. Bob recalls avoiding these assignments by hiding in the back of the wood pile. "Even at that early age," he says, "I was observing others from a place of concealment."

After a four-year hitch in the Coast Guard, where he was involved in search-and-rescue operations, Bob signed on as a CO in 1966, and that's what he's been doing ever since. For a cool 20 years, before he was transferred to the TIP program, Bob was one of the team of COs responsible for Connecticut's western district. Poaching was and is the main problem. "A poacher," says Bob, "is anybody who takes wildlife illegally. This can be for purposes of selling, as an opportunist, or just because somebody likes to shoot animals. And there are people like that."

A conservation officer is on the job 24-hours a day. You're always on call, and you have to be able to move fast. "The job is always different, always

challenging," he says. "And somehow, there's always something amusing about it. I find it amusing when somebody makes careful, detailed plans to break the law and then, the first time they go out and try it, they get caught. Then, they get mad at us for catching them. I find it amusing when somebody says, 'Oh, I didn't know anybody owned this land.' As far as I know, all the land in Connecticut is owned. I find it amusing when somebody says he hunted this land last year, but this year there's a house on the land, and he's still hunting it. I find that all amusing."

**I**N 1985, BOB WAS HONORED with the Conservation Officer of the Year Award by the Shikar-Safari Club. This was in recognition of his long and dedicated efforts to protect Connecticut's wildlife. Says Bob of the award: "The team effort is the important thing. This award should be for all the COs." Since 1984, Bob has been the coordinator of the Turn In Poacher (TIP) program. This program, through which people are rewarded for phoning in and reporting wildlife violations, has become a major tool of wildlife law enforcement. "The best information is advance information," says Bob, "and so we rely strongly on tips from the private citizen."

Bob Aborn describes himself as a man who likes people. It's something that becomes apparent when he approaches an ice fisherman who may or may not have the proper license, or when he stops to chew the fat with a local municipal policeman. It's a special something that makes him just the right man for a very delicate job, when you need somebody who won't create problems where none existed, when you need somebody who understands the complexity of the human condition. And, finally, Bob Aborn is somebody who continues to be amused by it all. There can never be enough people like that.





*Through the COVERTS Project, hundreds of landowners will learn about good forest management.*

## The COVERTS Project is looking for a few good landowners

COVERT — meaning a thicket that provides sheltering habitat for wildlife — appropriately names a special three-year effort of The University of Connecticut and the Ruffed Grouse Society. Developed in cooperation with Yale University, the DEP's Bureau of Wildlife, and cooperating private foresters and woodland owners, the purpose of the project is to improve wildlife habitat through sound forest management practices.

Both Connecticut and Vermont have established at least four demonstration sites to show the effects of forest management practices which simultaneously improve timber production and enhance wildlife values, particularly for upland game birds, but also for other game and non-game species.

The demonstration sites will be used in conjunction with intensive seminars on forest management for se-

lect groups of woodland owners. The cost of the seminar — meals, lodging, and materials — will be covered; in exchange, participants will agree to return to their communities and share the information with others. Through this network, hundreds of other woodland owners will learn about good forest management.

IN THE PAST, the term forest management has been synonymous with timber management. Even though periodic income from the sale of timber is an economic reality of woodland ownership, with a little extra planning and effort timber management activities can have a substantially positive effect on wildlife as well.

Philosophically, the COVERTS project is intended to show that forest management decisions should be based on two things: the owner's goals and

objectives for the land; and the ability of the forest to provide a mix of benefits in proportion to the owner's objectives and interests.

Although occasionally timber production must be sacrificed to favor wildlife, quite often the two go hand-in-hand. The key is to recognize the potential for habitat improvement and make timber management decisions while considering how they will affect wildlife.

FOOD, WATER, AND COVER are essential elements of good wildlife habitat. Of course, the kind of food and cover will determine the species that use an area; good habitat for one species may be poor habitat for another. The COVERTS project in Connecticut emphasizes habitat improvement primarily for ruffed grouse, woodcock, turkey, and deer. Other species are examined where the potential exists.

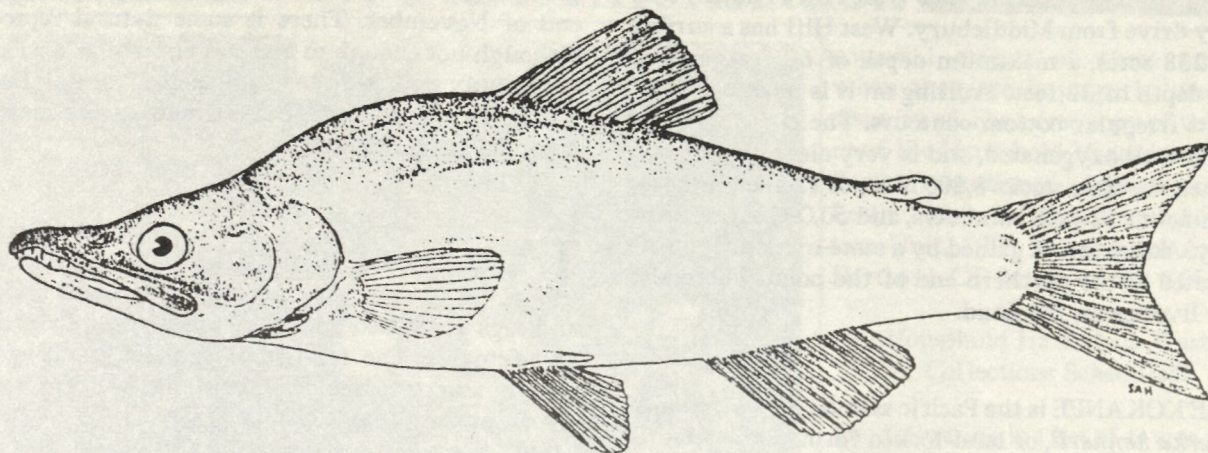
DEMONSTRATION SITES are located in Eastford, Lyme, New Fairfield, and Salisbury. Beginning in the spring of 1988, woodland owners who are interested in taking the seminar will be interviewed to fill the 30 slots available in the fall, 1988, seminar.

The ideal candidate will be someone who is or has the potential to be an educator within his or her community. The candidate must have the time for the seminar and the community-sharing activities, and be willing to implement forest management practices on his own land. ■

To learn more about the project in Connecticut, contact Stephen Broderick, Extension Forester, Extension Center, P.O. Box 327, Brooklyn, CT 06234; or phone 774-9600.

Information about joining the Ruffed Grouse Society and about financial contributions may be obtained by contacting Chuck Sauer, N.E. Representative, Ruffed Grouse Society, 2420 Cambria Mills Rd., Grandville, OH 43023.





## After the Elusive Kokanee

by  
Robert Gregorski

**K**OKANEE SALMON were first discovered in a small number of lakes in Alaska, British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. Prior to 1900, all attempts to establish Pacific salmon in the East met with failure. Biologists in the East, after studying the successful kokanee transplanting in the West, introduced them into a number of lakes. In the 1930s, kokanee were found spawning in East Twin Lake. Where they came from is a mystery. Natural reproduction could not maintain a reliable productive fishery, so eggs were imported from British Columbia. An intensified stocking process was started in 1958.

A survey of seven northeastern states indicated that there are no kokanee in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, or Rhode Island. Connecticut has had some success with its stocking program. To date, kokanee have been implanted in a total of nine lakes and ponds. Historically, East Twin Lake has been rated the number one kokanee fishery by fishermen. Some say it is the best in the East because it provides the highest catch rates. Each year the lake is stocked with 20,000 nine- to 12-inch brown trout and 40,000 salmon fry.

**E**AST TWIN LAKE is in the township of Salisbury, in the northwest corner of the state. The lake has

a surface area of 562 acres, a maximum depth of 80 feet, and an average depth of 32 feet. It is natural in origin, and is fed by very small brooks and bottom springs. The water is well supplied with oxygen and is thermally stratified, two conditions which kokanee and trout require. Public access to the lake is provided at O'Hara's Trading Post. Boats may be launched there for a fee and boats and motors may be rented.

Wononscopomuc Lake is my second choice for kokanee. It also is located in Salisbury. The water is thermally stratified, well oxygenated, and has an average depth of 36 feet. "Wono" is a beautiful lake that is usually not fished very heavily. It has a good population of trout, bass, and salmon. The salmon in this lake tend to be the slowest growing of Connecticut. This is probably due to the number of kokanee, the presence of trout, available food supply, and degree of predation. On August 1, 1987, this writer and a friend landed 15 salmon, the largest of which was a mature 10-incher. By comparison, three-year-old salmon at East Twin and West Hill were 14 to 15 inches at that time. There is a public boat launch, and boat livery in the town-owned park at the northeastern end of the lake in the village of Lakeville. In 1987, about 11,000 nine- to 12-inch brown and rainbow trout, and 60,000 salmon fry were stocked.



THERE ARE DAYS when my fishing time is very limited, so I choose to fish West Hill Pond, an easy highway drive from Middlebury. West Hill has a surface area of 238 acres, a maximum depth of 60 feet, and an average depth of 32 feet. Trolling on it is most difficult, due to its irregular bottom contours. The pond is fed by springs, is well oxygenated, and is very clear. In addition to kokanee, the state stocks 8,800 nine- to 12-inch browns, 12,500 nine- to 12-inch rainbows, and 50,000 salmon fry annually. Access can be gained by a state-owned right-of-way located at the northern end of the pond. There also are boat liveries on the pond.

THE KOKANEE is the Pacific salmon, *Oncorhynchus nerka kennerli*, or land-locked form of the anadromous sockeye salmon. Kokanee have a streamlined laterally-compressed body that is 14-17 inches in length at maturity. The head is bluntly pointed with rather small eyes and very small teeth on its jaws. The dorsal surface of its head and body are brilliant steel-blue. Its sides are bright silver with no markings.

Breeding males have a bright red to dirty red-grey humped back. The sides of their heads are bright green to olive-black, and they have a well developed kipe, which is a secondary sex characteristic of male salmonids. Female coloration is similar, but there is no humped back or pronounced kipe.

The kokanee is very similar to the anadromous sockeye, except sockeyes usually attain an ultimate length of 24 inches. "Koks" inhabit many lakes to which anadromous salmon no longer have access, but must have at one time. A widely distributed fish, kokanee occur naturally in Japan, U.S.S.R., Alaska, Yukon Territory, British Columbia, Washington, Idaho, and Oregon.

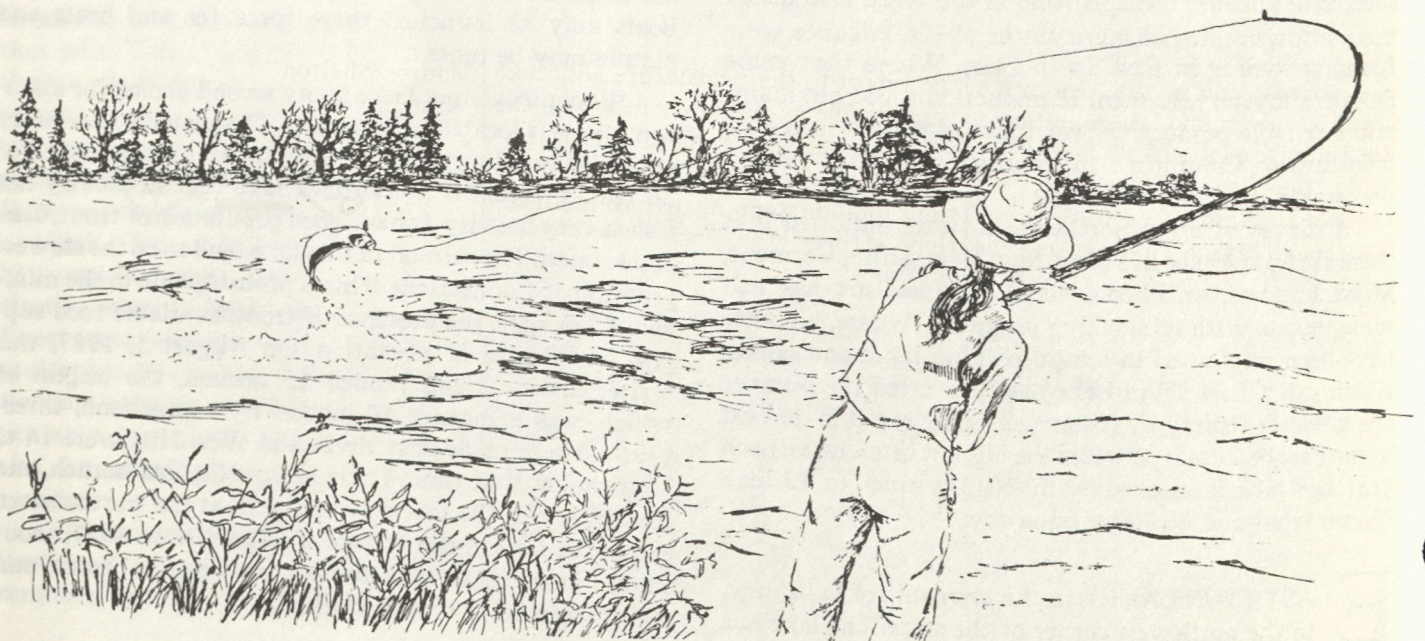
Also known as land-locked sockeye, little redfish, or

silver salmon, "koks," spawn in the fall. In Connecticut, spawning usually occurs between mid-October and the end of November. There is some natural reproduction, although not enough to maintain a fishery. An East Twin Lake study revealed that 10-40 percent of its salmon were naturally reproduced. It is estimated to be much less in other lakes of the state.

DEP PERSONNEL trap the spawning salmon in East Twin each fall and artificially breed the fish. Milt and eggs are mixed once they are stripped from the males and females. The fertilized eggs and resulting fish are then hatchery reared. Fry about one inch long are stocked the following May.

Connecticut kokanee have a three-year life span and, like all Pacific salmon, die after spawning. Their growth rate is dependent on food supply, fish population, water quality, and the number of predators. Small salmon are a delicacy for most game fish. Generally, a one-year-old fish is three-to-five inches; at age two they are eight-to-nine inches; and, at maturity, 12-15 inches. The kokanee fishery program in Connecticut is relatively inexpensive and has a high benefit-to-cost ratio. ■

*The author is chairman of the Mathematics Department of Pomperaug High School in Southbury, a member of The Naugatuck Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited, and chairman of the Naugatuck River Restoration Committee. He has written numerous articles on conservation.*





## For Your Information



*The DEP provides technical and financial assistance to towns sponsoring hazardous waste collection days.*

# Poisons in Your Garage

by  
**Leslie Lewis**  
Citizens' Participation  
Coordinator

**S**INCE JUNE OF 1984, over 12,500 households in Connecticut have participated in household hazardous waste collection days. They have safely disposed of 63,448 gallons and 139,034 pounds of waste which might otherwise have been put in the trash, poured down the drain, or dumped on the ground. These are some of the findings of the DEP's recent Report to the General Assembly on Household Hazardous Waste.

Although exact figures are not available, it is estimated that household hazardous wastes make up about one percent of the total solid waste stream. In Connecticut, this means that about 13,000 tons of these wastes are generated each year. The figure does not reflect the materials which accumulate over the years in basements, garages, and garden sheds.

The DEP currently provides technical and financial assistance to municipalities or regions which wish to

sponsor household hazardous waste collection days. So far, over 90 towns have taken advantage of this opportunity to provide a safer disposal alternative to their residents. The household hazardous waste program is not without its problems, however, and the report to the Legislature addresses these problems and ways in which the program might be modified or improved in the future. Recommendations include stepping up public education efforts and investigating the possibility of a totally state-run regional collection program. If there is need for them, permanent transfer facilities might also be developed.

Flyer Reprinted

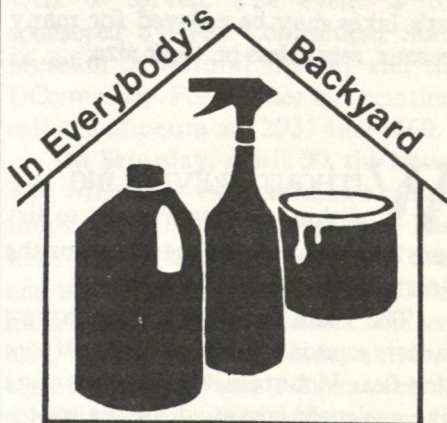
The DEP's flyer, "Hazardous Products in the Home," has recently been reprinted, thanks to the generosity of the Bridgeport Hydraulic Company. The four-page brochure discusses the

potential effects of these products when they are improperly used and disposed of. For a free copy of this flyer of the Household Hazardous Waste Report mentioned earlier, contact Leslie Lewis, Information and Education Unit, DEP, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106, or call 566-3489.

### Household Hazardous Waste Collections Scheduled

The following is a list of towns *tentatively* planning household hazardous waste collection days this spring. If no date is given here, contact your town hall for more information.

Glastonbury - April 16  
New Haven - April 23  
North Haven - April 23  
Ellington - April 30  
Guilford/Madison - May 1  
Wallingford - May 7  
Groton - May 21  
Norwich - June 4  
Windsor  
Cheshire  
Plainville  
Waterford/East Lyme  
Darien  
Avon/Canton/Simsbury  
East Hartford  
Bridgeport  
CT River Estuary Regional Planning  
Agency (Old Saybrook region)  
Monroe/Shelton  
West Haven



**Household  
Hazardous Waste**



## Connecticut's Greatest Lakes

by  
**Alan Levere**  
Senior Environmental Analyst

**T**HE CLOSEST of America's five Great Lakes is about 300 miles from Hartford. All of these lakes are large, each one being greater in surface area than Connecticut itself. Most, in fact, are many times larger. Unofficially, I think the five Great Lakes were actually created to give the nine landlocked states they border a slight taste of tidal action.

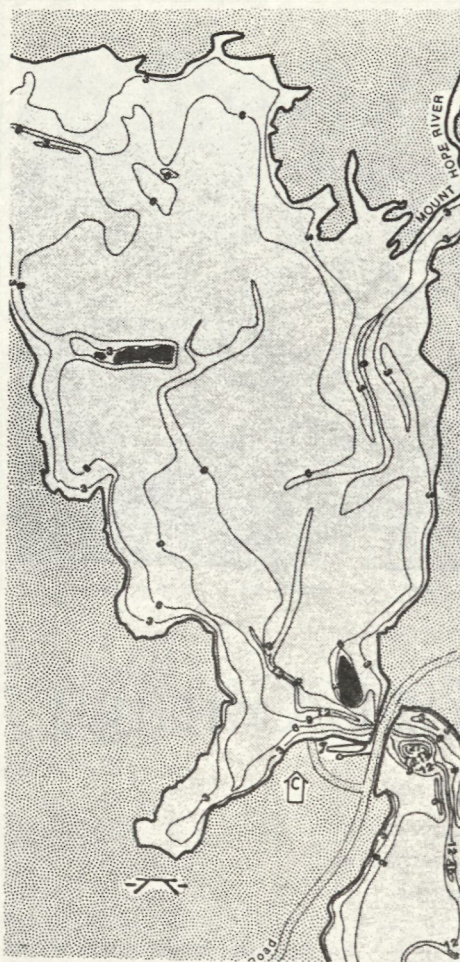
But, here in the Nutmeg State, sometimes the smaller a lake is, the better it is. We have our tides down at the seashore, anyway.

In order to take full advantage of any of our public lakes, you need to know what the lake has to offer. A few questions come immediately to mind: Where is it? How big is it? How deep is it? Are there fish in it? What kind? Is there a boat ramp? What are the regulations on the lake? Can I water ski?

Lakes offer different things to different people. The Great Lakes have size, perfect location for commercial transport, and a rich history. Connecticut's lakes may be enjoyed for many reasons, regardless of their size.

**W**ITHOUT REVEALING any fishing secrets, I'd like to list here five of my own candidates for the Great Lakes of Connecticut.

The Twin Lakes in the northwest corner, especially when viewed from atop Bear Mountain, offer a panorama like a picture post card. In the southwest, Candlewood Lake takes the prize for its sheer size and excellent fishing.



In the central part of the state, I choose Chapman's Pond because, as a sanctuary, it's a great place to observe wildlife and wetland flora. In summers past, I have canoed and watched turtles at Mansfield Hollow (Naubensatuck Lake) in the northeastern part of the state. And, in the extreme eastern part of Connecticut, there is the Killingly Pond/Middle Reservoir complex. Having been there around dusk on a very overcast day, I found this lake to be the most remote and haunting.

So, if you want to know what opportunities there are for recreation at these lakes, where do you start?

Probably the best place is the *Guide to Lakes and Ponds of Connecticut*, published by the DEP. Not even a year old, it is already one of our most popular publications.

The *Guide* includes contour maps

of the bottoms of 73 public lakes and ponds in the state, most of which include information on overall depth, types of boats allowed, regulations, fish, surface area, size and condition of parking facilities, boat ramp location, general access, and on-site facilities. In addition, there are five pages of quick reference listings for another 191 lakes, ponds, and reservoirs (without the depth charts) in the state. Of my five great lakes, East Twin has the depth chart and full information, and the others appear in the quick reference listings that show fish types and many of the regulations. In all, it's quite a collection.

**T**HE NEXT QUESTION IS, how do I find out where these lakes are? My favorite statewide reference also happens to be one of my favorite maps — *The State Base Map*. This map is about 55 by 44 inches, and is printed in five colors. It has all the towns distinctly outlined in gray so they stand out nicely. Of course, the key color we need for water body identification is blue. Over 200 lakes, ponds, and reservoirs are depicted, many with the surface elevation above sea level listed as well. While you'll still need a local map to get you around town, this map gives a great statewide perspective.

All things considered, it becomes pretty clear that a lake does not have to be huge to be great, and sometimes the smaller the better. Together, these two sources of information combine to identify the resources, size, and proximity that make up the information profiles for scores of Connecticut's own Great Lakes. ■

*The Lakes and Ponds Guide* (\$4.65) and *The State Base Map* (\$4.00) can be ordered by enclosing payment, which must include 7.5 percent Connecticut sales tax, and \$2.00 for handling. Send orders to DEP-NRC, Map Sales, Room 555, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106.



# The Bulletin Board

## Environment / 2000 Film

A major project of the Connecticut DEP is *Environment 2000: Connecticut's Environmental Plan*. This plan outlines a long-range, comprehensive approach to environmental goals and strategies, and enlists the participation of state and local government, business and industry, and the public. A new 22-minute video tape has been compiled, introduced by DEP Commissioner Leslie Carothers, which covers the scope of the plan, as well as shows the natural beauty and rich cultural heritage of our state. The film is an excellent educational tool and presents a sampling of alternative measures that may be taken as we address the future.

The purchase price of the tape is \$11.00, which includes sales tax. Please add \$2.00 for shipping and handling. Make checks payable to DEP Publications, c/o Local Assistance/Video, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106.

## Thames Science Center

The following events are scheduled at the Thames Science Center:

The Simple Machines exhibit, to run through April 30, lets all ages get their hands in gear with their brains as they experiment with Lego technic parts to discover how simple machines such as the pulley, screw, and lever help us perform work. Monday through Friday 3:30-4:50 p.m.; Saturday 10:00 a.m.-4:50 p.m.; Sunday 1:30-4:50 p.m.

Watershed Watercolors is an exhibit of watercolor paintings by local artist and teacher, Luther Kelly Hall. The exhibit will run through April 30. The watercolors depict landscapes and streams of the Thames River watershed. Hall is a teacher in the Groton

school system and an avid fly fisherman. As a member of Trout Unlimited, Hall is concerned about the development areas his paintings depict. His feeling for these environments can be seen in his paintings which will be on display during regular museum hours, 9:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m.

The Thames Science Center is located on Gallows Lane in New London. For further information, call 442-0391.

## AIAI Events

The following events are scheduled to take place at the American Indian Archaeological Institute:

"Seventeenth Century Native Clothing of New England," an exhibit of replicas of native American clothing of that period will be on display from March 7 to September. Everyday and ceremonial clothing will be shown on life-sized mannequins. The costumes were crafted by Nanepashemet, curator of the Wampanoag Indian Program at Plymouth Plantation.

May 7-9, Saturday-Monday, 2:30 p.m. *Macumba, Trance, and Spirit Healing* is a film presenting the rituals, beliefs, and behavior of practitioners of macumba, a major Brazilian religion with both African and Roman Catholic roots. It shows how macumba trance-healing and spiritist techniques are used in treating physical and mental disorders.

May 14-16, Saturday-Monday, 2:30 p.m. *The Solar System* is a film about the sun, asteroids, comets, and meteors, as well as the nine planets and their moons. Information from America's space programs complements the animated sequences.

May 21, Saturday, 1:00 p.m. Linda Potter of Washington will lead a walk to identify wild edible plants. The walk will be followed by the 19-minute film *Wild Edible Plants*. The film will be shown on Sunday and Monday, May 22 and 23, at 2:30 p.m.

May 28-30, Saturday through Monday, 2:30 p.m. *Western Europe: A New Look* is a 24-minute color film that provides an overview of Western Europe, examining the effect of Christianity, education, industrialization, World War II, and the Common Market. Issues such as unemployment, drugs, the role of women, and the threat of nuclear war are considered.

AIAI is located in Washington, Connecticut. For further information call (203) 868-0518.

## Museum of Natural History

The following events are scheduled at the State Museum of Natural History at The University of Connecticut in Storrs:

On Sunday, April 17, "Biological Diversity: Its Origin and Future," a slide talk and booksigning will be presented by Edwin O. Wilson, curator of entomology at Harvard's Museum of Comparative Zoology and author of *Sociobiology: Its Origin and Future*. The lecture will be at 3 p.m. in the Benton Connection Gallery of the Jorgensen Auditorium Building at The University of Connecticut in Storrs. The lecture is free and refreshments will be served. The event is co-sponsored by The Connecticut State Museum of Natural History and the UConn Coop. For further information, call the Museum at (203) 486-4460.

On Saturday, April 30, the Museum will hold two children's workshops. The first, "Making May Baskets," is for children aged 10 and over and is from 10 a.m. — noon; fee: \$3 for members, \$5 for nonmembers. The second, "Signs of Spring" is for children aged 5-7, and is from 1-2 p.m.; fee: \$2 for Museum members, \$4 for nonmembers. Pre-registration is required; call the Museum at (203) 486-4460.



## Residue Regulations

Leslie Carothers, Commissioner of the DEP, announced the latest actions on procedures governing the testing and disposal of residues or ash from resource recovery facilities in Connecticut.

"This program of residue management," Carothers noted, "is an essential component of Connecticut's four-part solid waste management strategy — the other aspects being the reduction of waste at the source, recycling, and resource recovery, or the conversion of waste to energy."

Along with the final revisions to proposed regulations governing *testing* of residue from resource recovery facilities, Carothers presented additional proposed rules to regulate the disposal of residue or ash and announced a new research program, in cooperation with the Environmental Research Institute at The University of Connecticut.

"This new research program," she said, "will help Connecticut to keep abreast of the work of other states and the federal EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) and to develop better methods of testing ash and correlating test results with the real world impacts of ash disposal. It will also enable us to look ahead to how we can convert this waste material to beneficial uses." Dr. George Hoag, director of the Institute described his research efforts.

The *residue testing* regulations, revised and amended after several public hearings, now go to the Legislature's Regulations Review Committee for final approval. The regulations establish a program of testing by the commissioner of the combined residue or ash from resource recovery facilities. They provide for the testing of numerous substances and call for plans to handle any residue which could threaten public health or the environment.

These regulations are to be adopted

on an interim basis until Connecticut's research or federal regulations identify a best method for ash testing.

The new *disposal* rules will establish stringent siting criteria for ash landfills, Carothers said, "to assure that ground water supplies used for drinking water and surface waters cannot be impaired." These rules also call for composite, multi-layered landfill liners (soil and synthetic materials), collection and treatment of leachate from these landfills, safe transportation and handling of ash, as well as prescribing site closure and long-term monitoring procedures.

Commissioner Carothers also announced that she has invited a panel of local government, business, industry, science, and citizen group representatives to discuss these regulations prior to the hearings on them within the next three months. ■

## Wildlife Conference

The National Audubon Society announces the conference, "Audubon Adventures: Rivers and Wildlife," which will take place at Central Connecticut State University, in New Britain, April 23, 1988, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The conference will feature workshops, lectures, and seminars that will increase the participant's awareness of the state of our rivers and the wildlife that depends on them; provide information on current programs to protect these rivers; and offer suggestions for public involvement. The educational aspect of these programs will also be highlighted to assist teachers and citizens in the development of comprehensive programs about our rivers.

Registration fee is \$10, which includes buffet lunch and refreshments. Make checks payable to National Audubon Society, and return to Patricia Bulson, NAS, Box 171, Sharon, CT 06069. For further information, phone (203) 364-0520. ■

## Cure for the Summertime Blues

It's spring. Time to lean back, close your eyes, and start thinking about warm weather, beaches, swimming, boating, camping, great Connecticut scenery, and ... a summer job. Wait a minute — work? Why ruin pleasant thoughts of summer with the word J-O-B?

The DEP is offering the deal of a lifetime ... an opportunity to have your cake and eat it too. The DEP is offering over 800 chances to enjoy the great outdoors: sun, water, fresh air, and the chance to earn money at the same time. Impossible, you say? Not at all. But wait, there's more. Working at a state park or forest also teaches you new skills and gives good job experience and references for future employment. For those of you who burn easily and prefer a more shaded environment, there are numerous positions available for office workers and computer buffs.

Call or write to any Connecticut state park, forest, DEP District Office (Marlborough, Harwinton) or DEP Central Office (Hartford) and win the best summer of your life.

Positions are immediately available for lifeguards, seasonal patrolpersons, maintainers, skilled workers (craftsmen), emergency medical technicians (Conn. certification required), seasonal resource assistants, graphic and/or landscape designers, interpretive guides, ticket collectors, camp managers, office staff, nurses (RN or LPN certification required), seasonal park managers, and much more. ■





# The Night Sky

by  
Francine Jackson

Calendar-wise, we are now firmly entrenched in spring. Birds are flocking back north, flowers are pushing up from the ground, and Easter arrives on Sunday, April 3. Is Easter really a sign that spring is here? Yes, it is. In fact, by definition, Easter *must* fall in the springtime.

The date for Easter each year is determined astronomically. It is the Sunday after the full moon that is on or after the date of the vernal equinox, the date we know as the first day of spring. However, there are a couple glitches to this rule. First of all, the vernal equinox can fall on March 19, 20, or 21; yet, when determining Easter, only the 21st is considered. Also, if

the full moon falls on the 21st, but earlier in the day than the time of the vernal equinox, that moon does not count. Easter can thus fall as early as March 22 — if the full moon occurs on March 21 and that is a Saturday — or as late as April 25 — if the next full moon after the vernal equinox is on Sunday, April 18. This year, the first full moon after March 21 is on Saturday, April 2, and Easter is the next day.

Because Easter is the first Sunday in April this year, it is also the day designated to move our clocks ahead one hour, ushering in Daylight Savings Time to the United States ("spring ahead, fall back"). Although this traditional chronological alteration is considered a good practical move (more light at night, better homeward visi-

bility, more quality family time), it postpones the chance to view the night sky, sometimes cancelling it altogether for the very young, whose bedtime isn't pushed ahead to conform to the clocks. Because of this, some budding astronomers can miss out on such celestial happenings as meteor showers, of which April gives us the one usually considered the second-best of the year — the Lyrids. This shower has been rather a disappointment the past few years, but it does occasionally erupt with many more than the expected 15-20 meteors per hour. If you are able to be out after dark, look eastward the week of April 18-25, especially after midnight. Can't stay up that many evenings? Peak nights will be April 21 and 22. ■

## Letters to the Editor

The *Citizens' Bulletin* has helped me as a member of the Planning and Zoning Board. It's a most enlightening magazine.

Mrs. Eunice Spicer  
Franklin

A wonderful hidden treasure.

Joy E. Velky  
Fairfield

I look forward to every issue. Keep up the good work.

Matthew E. Phibbs  
Uncasville

Excellent reporting.

Mrs. Antoinette H. Johnson  
Hampton

My husband and I feel this is one of the best magazines we receive.

Mrs. William J. Carlin  
Manchester



You are a necessity in everyone's library. I hope G.W. Carter's articles continue. He opens our curiosity about non-exotic plants and flowers. It reads so easily and understandably.

Ms. Lea Roback  
Montreal, Quebec

Maybe you could find a new name for this magazine. It sounds like a political publication. My wife probably threw out earlier renewal notices with junk mail.

Richard A. Young  
Westport

*There must be a leak in our editorial conferences. Something may be happening in the coming months. Ed.*

## Endnote

Zen Master Dongshan asked a monk, "Where do you come from?"

The monk said, "From a trip to a mountain."

Dongshan said, "And did you reach the peak?"

The monk said, "Yes."

Dongshan said, "Was there anyone on the peak?"

The monk said, "No."

Dongshan said, "If so, then you didn't reach the peak."

The monk said, "If I didn't reach the peak, how could I know there was no one there?"

And Dongshan said, "To think I had doubted this fellow."

Old Zen story.





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